

*5th Sunday of Lent  
March 22, 2026*



***“Friend and neighbor You have taken away:  
My one companion is darkness.” Psalm 88:19  
This Lent—let us be the companions of our Lord!***



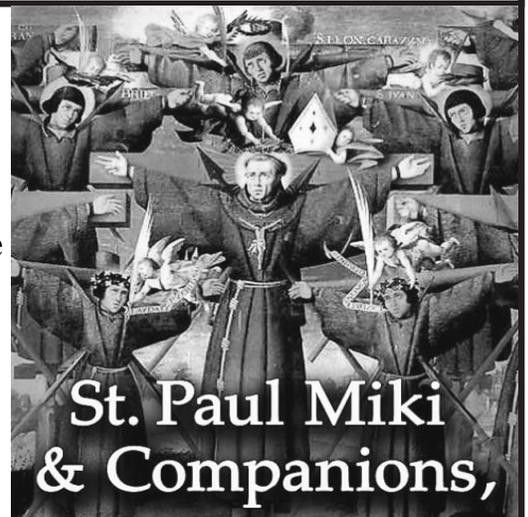
## You Will Be My Witnesses Capital Campaign

Bishop Malloy has insisted that his wish is not to close any of the Churches in the Rockford Diocese; and in order to fulfill that wish, and rather, to encourage healthy, vibrant parishes—the Bishop has begun a Capital Campaign to both fund individual projects at each Church and to assist Parishes with lower annual incomes. All three of our Churches qualify for *the Parish Opportunity Fund*, where other Churches more fortunate, with an abundance of Catholic households, who are tithing, would give our three Churches from their blessings. We will soon have the opportunity to make a contribution to the Capital Campaign; and indeed, even now our Fr. Randy is asking for volunteers to help contact families (when the time comes) and merely ask them to be generous in giving back to their Church just a little of how generous God has been to them in giving their family the Sacraments of God. Please, if you have been coming to Mass—please consider being a volunteer for your Church. See Fr. Randy after Mass or call him at the Rectory: 815-849-5413.

## From the Gusset

As the Jesuit, Paul Miki, was roped to a Cross in Nagasaki, Japan in 1597—he tried to encourage the 25 other individuals being martyred with him—to pray their favorite Prayer to God as they waited for the executioner to thrust a spear through their heart! One of the martyrs near St. Paul's Cross was Fr. Bursar (a fellow Jesuit). Fr. Bursar's favorite Prayer was the Holy Mass, but how could this priest say the Mass while affixed to a Cross? Fr. Paul reminded Fr. Bursar of how in the Mass, the priest raises his eyes toward Heaven when he picks up the Chalice. Fr. Miki told his brother priest—just imagine holding the Chalice and looking up to Heaven! Fr. Bursar never took his eyes off the sky until he was run through with a spear. What is your favorite Prayer? I pray, as your priest, that death would find you reciting your favorite prayer (either the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Confiteor, ...) before God; but I also pray, that this Lent would find you reciting your favorite Prayer more often. Much as a favorite song unites a man and his wife throughout their Marriage, the Prayer that you are drawn to pray is God's way of drawing you closer to the Sacred Heart of His Son!

Yours on the Path      Fr. Randy



## Weekly Schedule of Masses

The week of March 23rd, Tuesday through March 27th, Friday—will find us celebrating the Holy Mass at our Lady's Church in Sublette. Mass will begin at 8:00 am each day, and then on Friday, we will also have a Mass at 5:30pm preceded by Confessions at 4:30pm and the Stations of the Cross at 5:00pm. In addition we will have a Holy Hour following the 8:00am Mass on Thursday and Friday.



## BE RECONCILED DAY

### MARCH 25TH

Falling on what is arguably the Anniversary of “the Greatest Day in the Salvation of Mankind,” the Annunciation—Bishop Malloy has announced that March 25th will be: **BE RECONCILED DAY**. Taken from the Eucharistic Prayer of Reconciliation number 2, the Catholic Church prays:

“When we ourselves had turned away from You on account of our sins, You brought us back to be reconciled, O Lord, so that, converted at last to you, we might love one another through Your Son, whom for our sake You handed over to death!” We will actually celebrate two Masses on this beautiful day—one at 8:00am and the other at 6:00pm. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in Sublette from 9:00—10:00am and again from 5:00—6:00pm and then again from the close of the 6:00pm Mass until 8:00pm—and confessions will be heard in Sublette the whole time the Eucharist is exposed on the altar. Confessions will also be heard in West Brooklyn from noon to 1:00pm and in Maytown from 4:00—5:00pm. If you were unable to come to our Communal Penance Service last Thursday night—this is yet another wonderful opportunity to prepare for your Easter Duty!

BE \_\_\_\_\_  
RECONCILED

# *The Pieta*

## *by Michelangelo*

In the beautiful Prayer that we pray over 50 times a day, the Hail Mary Prayer, we ask the Blessed Virgin *to pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death*. See, we are always asking for Mary's help to be holy: to live our lives doing the will of God, loving generously, and falling deeper in love with her Son each day. When the Pieta statue was attacked by a man wielding a hammer, back in 1972 – much damage was done to the statue, especially Mary's face and her left hand. Many plaster casts of the statue had been made especially before WWII – just in case the statue was damaged – so that the Pieta could be restored or created again from scratch. Those plaster casts sure came in handy, when it came time to fix the Virgin's face and her left hand. One of the details that the restoration revealed was that traced between the lines of the palm of Mary's hand was the monogram of Michelangelo: a faint 'M,' which had been illegible for almost five centuries. Here was the beautiful Faith of Michelangelo Buonarroti being revealed! Here was the Hail Mary Prayer being prayed by his marble statue. Michelangelo was asking Mary to pray for him – pray that this artist-sinner (like the rest of us) would have the Virgin's plea be given to her Son: that Michelangelo would grow in holiness. Mary is our Mother – she was given that title by her Son on Good Friday. Our Holy Mother, the Catholic Church, is always praying for us – every day, that She celebrates the Mass for us – the Catholic Church prays that we would



become holy; and then, when we finally die – *at the hour of our death* – it is the Catholic Church that celebrates our Funeral Mass, and asks, once again, that we would be holy by the Sacrifice of her Son on Calvary – holy enough to be raised to eternal life!

**Our Lady of Sorrows...  
pray for us!**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, March 21st

(+) Darlene Gehant & (+) Edward McLaughlin & (+) Douglas Pettenger/ Fr. Randy  
4:00 pm, **St. Patrick** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Ritola Family & (+) Arthur Prendergast/ Family

### Sunday, March 22nd 5th Sunday of Lent

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Doug Blaine/ Diane Blaine

10:30 am, **St. Patrick** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

### Monday, March 23rd

(+) Mary Zapf/ Mr. & Mrs. Edward Klein

### Tuesday, March 24th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Floyd Wilson

### Wednesday, March 25th Solemnity of the Annunciation

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Raymond & (+) Ellice Dinges/ Mr. & Mrs. Donald Dinges

6:00 pm, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

### Thursday, March 26th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Deceased Members of the Pry & Payne Families/ Stanley Pry

### Friday, March 27th

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Anita Vaessen/ Mr. & Mrs. Mike Bonnell

5:30 pm, **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Family

### Saturday, March 28th

(+) Howard McInnis, (+) Robert Bulfer, & (+) Lynn Peterson/ Fr. Randy

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Thomas Berry/ Ruth Ann Vaessen

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) John Gehant/ Ronald Haefner

### Sunday, March 29th Palm Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Elaine Henkel/ Mr. & Mrs. John Payne

10:30 am, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

## HOLY WEEK AND THE TRIDUUM

We will soon enter into the Holiest Week in the Liturgical Calendar and we will continue the local tradition of moving the Triduum liturgies through out our 3 Churches. In addition, I extend the Invitation to all Zealots on a first response basis to accompany me to St. Peter's Cathedral in Rockford on Holy Thursday morning to receive the Holy Oils from the Bishop for our Parishes.



Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00 pm at St. Patrick Church, Maytown

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday Veneration of the Cross

1:00 pm at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sublette

Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass

7:30pm at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, West Brooklyn

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday Resurrection of the Lord

8:00 am at St. Patrick Church, Maytown

10:30 am Mass at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sublette